

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00

SCA-01 VO-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /054 W

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P R 161800Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7596

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 309

ROME AND FRANKFURT FOR INS

KUWAIT POUCH BAGDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: KURDISH REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

REF: GENEVA 136, PAPPAS/STEIN TELECON JAN 14, 1976

1. MEETING BETWEEN INS OFFICIALS, UNHCR REPS, AND MISOFF (HA) HELD IN FRANKFURT JAN 15 TO DISCUSS KURDISH REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT QUESTIONS, AS REPORTED PARA 3 OF REF ONE. PRESENT FOR INS WERE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR FALCHER, INS FRANKFURT DIRECTOR RIBA, UNHCR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASSISTANCE HOMANN-HERIMBERG, TEHERAN OFFICE DIRECTOR GOODYEAR, STAFF ASSISTANT LYONNETTEE AND MISSION COUNSELOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. MESSAGES PASS REF ONE WERE CONVEYED TO INS AND UNHCR REPS AT MEETING. PRINCIPAL POINTS OF SESSION, WHICH SERVED TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CONCERNING INS PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM FOLLOWS:

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A. SECURITY CHECKS: IT WAS RECOGNIZED AND AGREED THAT, GIVEN THE SITUATION IN IRAQ AND THE FACT THAT SECURITY FILES HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM BAGDAD TO BEIRUT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN DETAILED SECURITY CHECKS IN CUSTOMARY MANNER. THEREFORE, FORMS G-325 WILL BE COMPLETED FOR EACH REFUGEE AND CHECKS INSTITUTED AMONG KURDISH COMMUNITY WITHIN IRAN. IF INS RECIEVES NO CONTRARY WORD WITHIN 40 DAY PERIOD, IT WILL ASSUME THAT SECURITY CHECKS ARE NEGATIVE.

B. HEALTH EXAMINATIONS: INS REPS INDICATED THAT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THEIR PURPOSES.

C. INTERPRETER: INS SPECIFIED THAT ANY INTERPRETERS REQUIRED MUST NOT RPT NOT BE ACTIVE APPLICANTS, NOR REFUGEES, AND PREFERABLY DRAWN FROM THOSE ALREADY IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE KURDISH COMMUNITY NOW IN IRAN. WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES, NOMINATIONS BY EMBASSY TEHERAN OR, FAILING THIS, BY UNHCR GENEVA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO INS.

D. SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES: INS STIPULATED THAT SUCH ASSURANCES MUST BE IN HAND BEFORE REFUGEES PROCEED TO FRANKFURT, IN ORDER THAT PROCESSING CAN BE COMPLETED IN MINIMUM TIME. POSSIBILITY OF AIRMAILING ASSURANCES TO TEHERAN WAS DISCUSSED, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATELY IT WAS DECIDED THAT VOLAG REPS WOULD BRING COMPLETED ASSURANCES TO INS FRANKFURT WHICH WOULD THEN CABLE CLEARANCES TO EMBASSY TEHERAN, BASED UPON WHICH REFUGEE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED.

E. PROCESSING POINT: AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, AND WHILE OTHER LOCATIONS IN GERMANY MIGHT BE WORKABLE, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT FRANKFURT WAS IDEAL CENTER FOR PROCESSING FROM INS VIEWPOINT. QUESTION OF HOUSING, WHICH OUTSIDE GENERAL PURVIEW OF THOSE ATTENDING MEETING, WAS CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT. IF REFUGEES ARE TO BE HOUSED IN USG QUARTERS DURING STAY, POSSIBILITY OF USE OF CAMP KING AND FRANK-
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FURT YOUTH HOSTEL RAISED. IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DESIRABLE TO QUARTER REFUGEES AT FRG CENTER AT ZIRNDORFF. IN THIS CONNECTION UNHCR REPS STATED THEY WOULD WORK WITH VOLAGS IN GERMANY FOR RECEPTION, ACCOMMODATION AND ONWARD TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES, ONCE VOLAGS CONCERNED HAD BEEN DESIGNATED BY USG.

F. WORKLOAD: INS BELIEVES IT COULD PROCESS SOME 40 REFUGEES PER DAY OR 200 PER WEEK, AND THAT ENTIRE ESTIMATED GROUP COULD BE HANDLED

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE WORK WEEKS. TO BE ON SAFE SIDE, HOWEVER, INS JUDGED COMPLETION OF PROGRAM SHOULD BE SET AT SOME FIVE TO SIX WORKING WEEKS. INS STATED THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO A BREAK IN PIPELINE, AS UNHCR TEHERAN REP INDICATED BE NECESSARY. ON CONTRARY, INS INDICATED SUCH A GAP MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FROM THEIR OPERATING POINT OF VIEW. UNHCR REP TEHERAN ESTIMATED THAT, PROVIDED SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES WERE IN HAND (A SUBJECT OF MAJOR CONCERN TO HIM) THE FIRST GROUP OF 200 KURDISH REFUGEES SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED AND READY TO PROCEED TO FRANKFURT FROM TEHERAN BY MID-MARCH, OR POSSIBLY EARLIER.

G. CONTACT WITH FRG: UNHCR GENEVA REPS STATED THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH FRG ON SUBJECT BY END OF JANUARY. THEY ENVISAGE TWO-PRONGED APPROACH THROUGH GERMAN EMBASSY TEHERAN AND UNHCR REP IN BONN. UNHCR WILL ADVISE FRG THAT ESTIMATED STAY OF EACH GROUP OF REFUGEES WITHIN GERMANY SHOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 3 WEEKS, ALTHOUGH PARTICIPANTS JUDGE THAT ACTUAL STAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS.

H. RETURN CLAUSE: POSSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RETURN CLAUSE FOR EACH REFUGEE WAS CONSIDERED AND DISCARDED AS UNFEASIBLE. INS REP STATED OPEN BLANKET LETTER FROM GOI INDICATING RETURNEES FROM PROGRAM WOULD BE ACCEPTED BACK WITHIN A TWO YEAR PERIOD WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO INS.

I. LIMITATION: INS REPS FELT STRONGLY THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED AS TO TIME OR NUMBERS LIMITATION, INDICATING THAT FROM ITS VIEWPOINT PROGRAM SHOULD BE ACTED UPON AND CLOSED OUT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. AFTER SOME CONSIDERATION IT WAS RECOMMENDED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT A CUTOFF DATE OF JULY 31, 1976 BE ESTABLISHED, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF, FOR TECHNICAL OR OTHER REASONS, SOME ELIGIBLE REFUGEES HAD NOT BEEN PROCESSED, RECONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CASES COULD BE GIVEN.

J. CLERICAL ASSISTANCE: INS FRANKFURT CHIEF MADE BID FOR CLERICAL HELP TO ASSIST HIS STAFF IN EXTRA WORKLOAD DURING PROCESSING PERIOD. UNHCR RESPONDED IT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.

K. TRANSPORTATION: SUBJECT OF TRANSPORTATION ALONG LINES REPORTED PARA FIVE OF REF ONE, RAISED AND DISCUSSED. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT

MATTER AT PRESENT BEYOND COMPETENCE OF PARTICIPANTS
IN SESSION.

3. IN GENERAL, IT WAS FELT THAT THERE WAS
FULL MEETING OF THE MINDS BY THOSE ATTENDING AND
THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEMS AS CONCERNED INS
PROCESSING IN FRANKFURT. INDEED, INS REPS REPEATEDLY
INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM IN MOST
EXPEDITIOUS FASHION. QUESTION REMAIN, HOWEVER, OVER
OTHER ASPECTS OF PROGRAM AS SET FORTH PARA 3 THROUGH
5 OF REF ONE. RESPONSES TO THOSE QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY
AS CONCERNS VOLUNTARY AGENCY ACTIVITIES WOULD BE
HELPFUL IN ADVANCING PROGRAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, KURDS, POLICIES, MINORITIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760017-0456
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760151/aaaabsse.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KURDISH REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006